

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 36, 37, 43, 44, 55, 56, and 62 are pending in the present application; Claims 1-23 were previously canceled; Claims 24-33, 45-48, and 57-58 were previously withdrawn; and Claims 34, 35, 38-42, 49-54, and 59-61 along with previously withdrawn Claims 24-33, 45-58, and 57-58 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

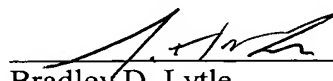
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 34, 35, 38-42, 49-54, and 59-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Tsukiji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,782,028, hereafter "Tsukiji"); Claims 36 and 37 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were otherwise indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claims 43, 44, 55, 56, and 62 were indicated as allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, Claims 36 and 37 have been rewritten in independent form and Claims 34, 35, 38-42, 49-54, and 59-61 have been canceled with prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 34, 35, 38-42, 49-54, and 59-61 is moot.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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